court was opened, the rest was left to the High Court. There could be no doubt that a court at Kuthiathode would get enough work. It might not also mean much expenditure for Government, for the additional courts at Vaikom and Shertallay could then be abolished.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhava Kartha, the Chief Engineer has prepared the estimate for the two bridges you refer to and they are about to be sanctioned. He will try to see whether this can be carried through this year.

I shall consider the question whether the Government can do anything to help people in the matter of Pookitha chira..

As regards the Munsiff-Magistrate's court, I shall ask the High Court to consider the matter again, now that they have decided to take up the whole question of readjustment of the territorial jurisdiction throughout Travancore.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

### 116. Suggestions for the development of women's education.

MR. H. B. MAHOMMAD ROWTHER (*Member, Nominated*) said that the present system of education in Travancore should be brought into line with the advanced systems obtaining in the west. Two women officers of the Education Department should, for this purpose, be sent to western countries to study the systems prevailing there.

So far as the present organisation of the Education Department was concerned the powers of the Inspectress of Schools should be enhanced. She should be invested with powers to grant recognition to schools, to sanction grants-in-aid and to select candidates for training.

In regard to the curricula of studies the member wanted prominence to be given to moral and ethical instruction in girls' schools. So also, girls studying in boys' schools should be instructed in sewing, music etc., as much as the girls in girls' schools.

Women should as far as possible be appointed as teachers in all girls' schools and a woman member should be appointed on the Text Book Committee.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mahommad Rowther, I do not know whether many in this country will accept your view that higher education for women is unnecessary and that only domestic arts need be learnt by women. In a matter such as this Government can but study the general feeling in the country and if, as at present the general feeling is for the education of girls, it is the duty of the Government to encourage and help it.

You say that some of the officers should be detailed to Europe to study the system of female education there. Let me inform you that there are a number of officers in the Educational Department of the State who have visited England for protracted or briefer periods and who have studied the question of female education in Europe.

Lastly, you say that it is necessary and desirable to put women upon the Text Book Committee. At present you think it is composed entirely of men. That is not strictly correct, because the Inspectress of Schools is a member of the Text Book Committee.

### 117. Educational facilities to the depressed classes.

MR. P. YESUDIAN (*Member, Nominated*) stated that the scheme of close scholarships sanctioned in G. O. R. Dis. No. 426 Leg. E. dated the 21st April 1925 had not been given effect to yet. Consequently many students had to discontinue their studies. According to the present practice, applications for scholarships were taken up for disposal long after the reopening of the schools. In the meantime poor students had no alternative but to borrow money. Indeed they could get the scholarships with retrospective effect at the close of the year, but it was extremely difficult for them to pull on till they got the money. Instructions should therefore be issued to dispose of all applications for scholarships within three months at the latest from the beginning of the academic year.

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Secondly, scholarships for the depressed classes should be separated from scholarships for the backward classes. The students of the depressed classes could not have a fair competition with those of the backward classes. Sixty per cent of the close scholarships might be set apart for students of the depressed classes.

Thirdly, fee concessions should be extended to the students of the college classes as well.

Fourthly, exemption from payment of examination fees should be granted to all students of the depressed classes. Recommendations from departmental officers should be done away with for this purpose.

Fifthly, the amounts sanctioned for noon-day meals for the children of the depressed classes should be entrusted to their parents instead of to managers of schools. This was what was being done in Cochin and Mysore. The books and cloths of these students might also be supplied by Government as in Mysore and Cochin.

Sixthly, in the Teachers' Training College and in the Training Schools, candidates from the depressed classes sent from aided schools should be paid the full amount of the stipend as in the case of candidates from departmental schools. Half the amount of the stipend which was expected to be paid by the managers of the aided schools to these candidates was seldom paid to them.

Seventhly, managers of private schools should be required to pay to their teachers at least 50 per cent of the grant given by Government, in addition to the grant itself.

Eighthly, the minimum strength of the schools of the depressed classes might be reduced from 25 to 20.

Ninthly, two industrial schools should be opened for Samabavars, one for boys and the other for girls, as was done by the Mysore Government. South Travancore wanted these schools more than North Travancore. Carpentry, mat-making, masonry, weaving, needle-work etc. might be taught in these schools.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Yesudian, there is a very generous system of scholarships and the children belonging to the depressed classes can compete with others for all the open and close scholarships tenable in English schools. The depressed classes are also exempted from the payment of fees for examinations as an experiment for five years.

You remarked that midday meals have been sanctioned. I am afraid you are under a misapprehension. There is no such sanction by Government. A generous philanthropist made an endowment for feeding a certain number of poor children in the middle of the day.

You ask that a certain number of scholarships should be set apart for the depressed classes, I think you said 60 per cent, as distinguished from backward classes. If you ask me the better test would be that all these be reserved for poor children. I can well imagine a member of the depressed class being in good circumstances, possibly holding a good Government post who may have children, would you suggest that those children should get all the concessions which would more justly be given to the very poor of another community not classed as depressed? There are difficult questions which should be dealt with on their merits as far as possible so as to give a lift to the depressed classes, but not necessarily to lift them over the shoulders of other classes. I may tell you that Government have now under consideration a scheme and they shortly hope to come to a decision on the point, of creating a certain number of scholarships exclusively for the poor among the depressed classes. I think these are the points which you touched upon.

### 118. Some urgent needs of the Vilavancode taluk.

MR. K. APPAVU (*Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhithura*) said that the Pechippara dam was in its inception meant to benefit the people of Vilavancode also. But the dam was not actually serving them at all. If they were to derive any benefit from the dam, an embankment should be put up in the Paraliyar and the water should be diverted by channels to the lands in



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